

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A cover authoring tool, comprising:
2 an interface configured to receive size information for a document to be
3 bound into a perfectly bound book having a spine characterized by a width
4 dimension and a height dimension, and to receive content information for a cover to
5 be attached to the perfectly bound book; and

6 a cover content layout engine configured to compose a final content layout for
7 the cover, including spinal content formatted to accommodate the width and height
8 dimensions of the book spine based upon the document size information and the
9 cover content information received through the interface.

1 2. The cover authoring tool of claim 1, wherein the cover content layout
2 engine is configured to compute the thickness dimension of the perfectly bound book
3 from the received document size information.

1 3. The cover authoring tool of claim 2, wherein the received document
2 size information includes type of paper and number of pages in the perfectly bound
3 book.

1 4. The cover authoring tool of claim 1, wherein the received cover content
2 information includes graphical content and textual content.

1 5. The cover authoring tool of claim 4, wherein the interface comprises a
2 graphical user interface through which a user may specify content and content layout
3 for the cover.

1 6. The cover authoring tool of claim 5, wherein the graphical user
2 interface is configured to present multiple pre-generated cover styles for selection by
3 the user.

1 7. The cover authoring tool of claim 6, wherein the cover content layout
2 engine is configured to compose the final content layout for the cover based upon a
3 pre-generated cover style selected by the user.

1 8. The cover authoring tool of claim 7, wherein the cover content layout
2 engine is configured to conform a spinal region of the selected pre-generated cover
3 style to the width dimension of the book spine.

1 9. The cover authoring tool of claim 1, wherein the cover content layout
2 engine is configured to select typeface parameter values for spinal text content
3 consisting of a number of characters.

1 10. The cover authoring tool of claim 9, wherein the typeface parameter
2 values are selected based at least in part upon the number of characters of spinal text
3 content and the height and width dimensions of the book spine.

1 11. The cover authoring tool of claim 9, wherein values are selected for
2 one or more of the following typeface parameters: font size, spread, stretch font
3 variation, and font weight.

1 12. The cover authoring tool of claim 11, wherein the font variation is
2 selected from the group consisting of a regular font face, a condensed font face, an
3 expanded font face, and multiple master typeface.

1 13. A cover authoring method, comprising:
2 receiving size information for a document to be bound into a perfectly bound
3 book having a spine characterized by a width dimension and a height dimension;
4 receiving content information for a cover to be attached to the perfectly bound
5 book; and
6 composing a final content layout for the cover, including spinal content
7 formatted to accommodate the width and height dimensions of the book spine based
8 upon the received document size information and the received cover content
9 information.

1 14. The cover authoring method of claim 13, further comprising computing
2 the thickness dimension of the perfectly bound book from the received document
3 size information.

1 15. The cover authoring method of claim 13, further comprising presenting
2 multiple pre-generated cover styles for selection by a user.

1 16. The cover authoring method of claim 15, wherein the final content
2 layout for the cover is composed based upon a pre-generated cover style selected by
3 the user.

1 17. The cover authoring method of claim 13, further comprising selecting
2 typeface parameter values for spinal text content consisting of a number of
3 characters.

1 18. The cover authoring method of claim 17, wherein the typeface
2 parameter values are selected based at least in part upon the number of characters of
3 spinal text content and the height and width dimensions of the book spine.

1 19. The cover authoring method of claim 17, wherein values are selected
2 for one or more of the following typeface parameters: weight axis, width axis, style
3 axis, and optical size axis.

1 20. A bookbinding system, comprising:
2 a sheet composer configured to format a document to be bound into a perfect
3 bound and to print the formatted document onto two or more sheets;
4 a sheet binder configured to form from the two or more printed sheets a text
5 body having an exposed spine characterized by a width dimension and a height
6 dimension;
7 a cover authoring tool comprising
8 an interface configured to receive size information for the text body,
9 and to receive content information for a cover to be attached to
10 the perfectly bound book, and
11 a cover content layout engine configured to compose a final content
12 layout for the cover, including spinal content formatted to
13 accommodate the width and height dimensions of the book

14 spine based upon the document size information and the cover
15 content information received through the interface; and
16 a cover binder configured to attach the cover to the text body.